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Core 9 7th and 8th periods

#### REVIEWING THE PAST YEAR

It was on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, that I think the most important facts of last year started from. We lived in Gresham, Oregon then, a small city about 13 miles east of Portland, Oregon. The news of the terrible Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was such a shock to us we refused to believe it, but when we even saw the headlines; Japanese Brutally Attacked Pearl Harbor, we knew it must be true. All sorts of thoughts raced through my mind, but the most important was "How would I face my classmates at school?"

The next day, Monday was a school day so I certainly dreaded to go to school. Even as I entered the bus, I felt a change as a few of the little boys began to snicker and whisper behind my back, but the older ones was much nicer and acted friendly. When I got to school, again I went through the same ordeal. Most of my friends were nice, but some were not and certainly showed it. These tried to make all the trouble for me as possible by passing false rumors and such. Of course, they weren't nothing at all but it still made me feel awful. I went through this routine every day until the Christmas and New Years vacation.

Christmas that year was one of the gloomiest I ever spent as everything was so dull. We tried our best to make it a merry but as much as we tried it didn't seem to work out. Everyone was worried about the war and when New Years day came, we just took it as the days to start more troubles and worries. That I think was true at the beginning, as they made many laws and regulations we were to follow, so we thought we were not as free as we should be. Then came the day they definitely said we were to be evacuated. I was not worried at first and just took it as a new adventure for me as I had never in all my life moved until then. But it was not as easy as I imagined because I found it very hard to say good--bye to all my friends. Even those who did not like us softened up towards the end and gave us there best wishes.

Going to our assembly center at North Portland was only an  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour trip. We started about 11:30 and got there around 12 noon. We certainly were hungry as I don't suppose any of us thought of eating from our homes and those who did must have been too excited as all of us ate like we hadn't eaten in days. That was my first meal at the center and as I remember it, it was stew.

I was at the Porland Assembly Center four months which certainly was a new adventure to me. It seemed queer to me to be able to walk a few hundred yards to go visit my girl friends, but I soon became accustomed to it and before I knew it I was down there over half of the day. There is one thing I didn't like at the center.



That was the fact that we all had to live under the same roof and breathe the same air, which caused in spreading diseases up there much faster. Some of the diseases were chicken pox, measles, mumps. We were given injections for diptheria, typhoid, small pox, which I dreaded to take as I would get sick every time and lie in bed a week or so.

After every thing was established here, about 600 people came from Puyallup, Toppenish, and surrounding territories of Washington. We became friends very rapidly as they were so friendly.

We had baseball games, shows (once a week) softball games, volley ball and all the other outdoor and indoor sports. Besides this we had a canteen. They sold ice cream, fruits, toothpowder and paste, etc. there which certainly earned a lot. One of the most busiest days seem to be on Sunday when they earned an average \$100 an hour.

Churches and talent revue's, symphonies were also conducted there. Although we only had one talent revue it certainly turned out a success. Oh, yes, we had a circus there too! It was only amateurs and wasn't much, but all the small children certainly enjoyed it. There was no live animals there, only amateur trapeze performers and such. I think those two were the best and most important showings held there.

In August we got the news that we were to come to Idaho. We were all glad, yet very sad as they said all our friends from Washington had to go to Wyoming. August 29, was set for there parting day and I think it was one of the saddest day I ever knew. After they had left I thought the center to be so lonely not only because it was on account of my friends, but they gradually began to tear down all our playgrounds and rooms which made everything so boring.

On September 6, 1942, I had my first ride on a train, for that was the day I left Portland to come here. The train ride was alright during the day but at night I couldn't sleep so I thought it was terrible. We passed many towns and after we passed them all, the only thing we would be able to see for miles and miles was just bare rock and sage brush. It surely got monotonous.

We reached about noon Sept. 7. As we were arriving to our homes I thought the project was at least 10 miles long as we passed so many barracks and people. The houses and barracks we first pictured them to be as my friends at Wyoming had described them to me in my letters.

As soon as we were taken to our house I went outside and no sooner had I gone, a few blocks away, I was caught in a dusty storm. It wasn't very bad at first, as it wasn't so dusty, but I got lost anyway until a girl friend saw me and took me home. After that I thought Idaho would always be like that but I was mistaken as it certainly is not.



During the past month I have stayed here, I did many things such as fishing, hiking, greasewood hunting and sports. Now that school is here I don't have time to play as much as the school hours are so long.

My first empression of school was not very good because of the lack of school equipment and facilities besides the long hours, but now I am a little accustomed to it and like it very much.

This Christmas was not very good for me as I was sick but even tho' I was, I think it was better than last years as this year there was not much worrying which made it very merry.

Now I am looking forward to the coming New Year which will certainly be a different one for me because it will be the first one here in camp.